

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): An image processing apparatus, comprising:

storage control means for controlling storage of a plurality of pixels inputted thereto;

detection means for detecting ~~presence or absence of~~ a boundary line in the proximity of the said pixels by comparing differences between pixel values associated with at least two of said pixels whose storage has been controlled by said storage control means;

position calculation means for calculating positions of the boundary line with respect to the said pixels whose storage has been controlled by said storage control means;

weighting means for weighting the pixel values of ~~the said pixels and juxtaposed pixels~~ based on the distance between said pixels and in accordance with the positions of the boundary line calculated by said position calculation means, wherein values can be used for weighting to calculate from a distance between a noticed pixel and an edge, and a distance between the pixels in an input image; and

; outputting means for outputting the said pixels, wherein the weighted pixel values are associated with said outputted pixels weighted by said weighting means.

Claim 7 (currently amended): An image processing method, comprising:

~~a storage control step of controlling storage of a plurality of pixels inputted in a storage device;~~

~~a detection step of detecting presence or absence of a boundary line in the proximity of said the pixels by comparing differences between pixel values associated with at least two of said pixels whose storage has been controlled by the processing of the storage control step;~~

~~a position calculation step of calculating positions of the boundary line with respect to said the pixels whose storage has been controlled by the processing of the storage control step;~~

~~a weighting step of weighting the pixel values associated with said of the pixels and juxtaposed pixels based on the distance between said pixels and in accordance with the calculated positions of the boundary line calculated by the position calculation step; wherein weighting the pixel values includes blending at least two of the pixel values of the said pixels and juxtaposed pixels of the weighting step; and~~

~~an outputting step of outputting the said pixels, wherein the weighted pixel values are associated with said outputted pixels weighted by the processing of the weighting step.~~

Claim 8 (currently amended): A recording medium on which a computer-readable program is recorded, the computer-readable program comprising:

~~a storage control step of controlling storage of a plurality of pixels inputted in a storage device;~~

~~a detection step of detecting presence or absence of a boundary line in the proximity of said the pixels whose storage has been controlled by the processing of the storage control step by comparing differences between pixel values associated with at least two of said pixels;~~

~~a position calculation step of calculating positions of the boundary line with respect to said the pixels whose storage has been controlled by the processing of the storage control step;~~

~~a weighting step of weighting the pixel values of said the pixels and juxtaposed pixels based on the distance between said pixels and in accordance with the positions of the boundary line calculated by the position calculation step, wherein said weighting step includes blending at least two of the pixel values associated with of said the pixels and juxtaposed pixels of the weighting step; and~~

an outputting step of outputting said the pixels, wherein the weighted pixel values are associated with said outputted pixels ~~weighted by the processing of the weighting step.~~

Claim 9 (currently amended): The image processing apparatus of claim 6, wherein the weighting means controls weighting of the pixel values of said the pixels ~~and juxtaposed pixels~~ when there is no boundary line on left-hand and right-hand sides of the pixel or there is no boundary line on upper and lower sides of the pixel.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The image processing method of claim 7, wherein the weighting step controls weighting of the pixel values of said the pixels ~~and juxtaposed pixels~~ when there is no boundary line on left-hand and right-hand sides of the pixel or there is no boundary line on upper and lower sides of the pixel.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The recording medium of claim 8, wherein the weighting step controls weighting of the pixel values of said the pixels ~~and juxtaposed pixels~~ when there is no boundary line on left-hand and right-hand sides of the pixel or there is no boundary line on upper and lower sides of the pixel.